

REMARKS

Claims 13-17, 21-26, and 27-35 are pending in the application, with claims 13 and 27 being the only independent claims. Claims 18-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 13 and 17 have been amended to correct informalities without narrowing the scope of either of the claims or any claim element contained therein. New claims 27-35 have been added, in which claims 27-33 are supported by and correspond to the previously presented claims 13-17 and 21-22. Support for new claims 32 and 33 can be found in Figs. 6 and 7. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Summary of Office Action

Claims 13-17 and 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the phrase “the first surface” lacks antecedent basis.

Claims 13-17, 21, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,847,489 (Van Riper) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,930,738 (Thuss) and Patent No. DE 19804801 (Dorma GmbH).

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Riper, Thuss and Dorma GmbH as applied to claims 13-17, and 24 above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,305,117 (Hales).

Claims 23, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Riper, Thuss and Dorma GmbH as applied to claims 13-17, and 24 as applied to claims 13-19 and 24 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,789,832 (Gort).

Formality Issues

With respect to drawing objections in the Office Action Summary, applicant refers to the previous reply on page 6 of the January 22, 2008 Amendment. Should the Examiner maintain his position, applicant requests that the Examiner specify the drawing objections.

With respect to the §112, second paragraph, rejection, the term “the first surface” on line 15 of the previously presented claim 13 has antecedent basis on line 12 of the same claim. Accordingly, the §112 rejection of claims 13-17 and 21-26 is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Independent claim 13 recites, at least, a clamping piece “having a first outside surface and a first toothing on the first outside surface” and that “the first toothing abuts against a first inside surface of the end of the slide channel.” These features are not taught by the cited art.

The Office Action concedes that Van Riper does not disclose a number of claim features recited in independent claim 13 (*see*, page 3, lines 14-26 of the Office Action) and cites Thuss for its alleged teachings of abutment between the serrations 34 and the ribs 30, 31, which the Office Action interprets to be the inside surfaces of the frame member 13 (*see*, page 3, line 26 to page 4, line 5). Such interpretation of Thuss made in the Office Action is inaccurate.

The serrations 34 in Thuss are formed on two opposite surfaces 35, 36 of a fastener 19 (*see*, Fig. 2 of Thuss). As is illustrated by the broken lines extending from the fastener 19, the serrated portion of the fastener 19 is to be positioned inside the V-shaped recess of the clip member 18 when it is mounted onto the frame member 13 (*see*, also Fig. 3). Neither the serrations 34 nor the fastener 19 are to be in contact with the ribs 30, 31 in the anchoring position. Rather, it is the lips 28, 29 on the support means 20 that are forced against ribs 30, 31. The serrations 34 on the fastener 19 serve to grip web member 33 and the clip member 18 to prevent any relative movement thereof (*see*, col. 3, ll. 34-36). Further, the serrations 34 on fastener 19 in Thuss do not abut an *inside* surface of the frame member. Therefore, Thuss does not teach a clamping piece “having a first outside surface and a first toothing on the first outside surface” and that “the first toothing abuts against a first inside surface of the end of the slide channel,” as explicitly recited in independent claim 13.

Dorma GmbH was cited for its teachings of a locking component and does not cure the deficiencies of Van Riper.

In light of the above, the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness against independent claim 13. Therefore, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of independent claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 14-17 and 21-26 are allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 13 is allowable, as well as for the additional limitations recited therein.

Similar to independent claim 13, new independent claim 27 also recites, at least, that “the first toothing abuts against a first inside surface of the end of the slide channel.” Therefore, for at least the same reasons submitted above in connection with independent claim 1, new independent claim 27 and its dependent claims 28-35 are also allowable.

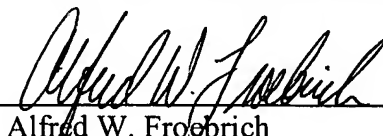
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect and early passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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